

Rhodia Incorporated

New Brunswick, Middlesex County

A Citizen's Guide to the Public Health Consultation

January, 2002

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) has released for public comment a Public Health Consultation on the Mile Run Brook downstream of the Rhodia Incorporated site. The purpose of a Public Health Consultation is to provide a response to a specific public health concern relating to environmental quality. A Public Comment Draft is published so that citizens may provide additional concerns or comments before the Public Health Consultation is finalized. This Citizen's Guide is a summary of the January, 2002 Public Health Consultation. For a copy of the complete document, please contact one of the agencies listed on the back of this Citizen's Guide.

What is the purpose of this Public Health Consultation?

This consultation responds to a petition from the Edison Wetlands Association, Inc. to the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to evaluate potential public health implications associated with exposure to soil and surface water located in publicly accessible areas of Mile Run Brook near the Rhodia, Inc. site in New Brunswick.

What areas have been sampled for contaminants?

Soil, sediment and surface water samples have been taken both on-site at Rhodia Inc. and off-site along the banks of the Mile Run Brook downstream from Rhodia Inc.

What contaminants have been found off-site?

Soil samples from the Mile Run Brook downstream of the Rhodia Inc. property contained several polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), arsenic, cadmium, and lead at levels above health screening values. Trichloroethene and methylene chloride were detected in the surface water at levels above New Jersey standards. Camphor was also detected in soils and surface water. Camphor is a common component of cosmetic and pharmaceutical products at levels many times higher than that found in the soil and water.

What are the public health implications of off-site contaminants?

Although the soil and water samples from the Mile Run Brook contained contaminants at levels above health screening guidelines, it is unlikely that people will come into contact with the contaminants in large enough quantity to affect their health. Therefore, the NJDHSS and ATSDR conclude that exposure to

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contaminants in the Mile Run Brook currently pose *No Apparent Public Health Hazard*. However, this is based on limited sampling, and may not represent the true extent of contamination. The availability of new data, from either the Rhodia, Inc. site or the Mile Run Brook downstream from the site, may cause NJDHSS and ATSDR to reassess exposures to the Mile Run Brook.

***What recommendations
have been made to
protect public health?***

As a precaution, persons who enter Mile Run Brook area should minimize contact with contaminated soil, surface water and sediment. Appropriate clothing and equipment should be used to limit skin exposure during voluntary clean-up activities.

Children should avoid unnecessary contact with soil and surface water along the Mile Run Brook. In addition, the Mile Run Brook contains many physical hazards which also should be avoided by children and adults.

***Where can I get more
information about this
site or other
environmental health
issues?***

The Public Health Consultation may be found on the NJDHSS web site at www.state.nj.us/health, or you may contact:

Middlesex County Public Health Department
John F. Kennedy Square - 5th Floor
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901
(732) 745-3100

Franklin Township Health Department
935 Hamilton Street
Somerset, NJ 08873-3697
(732) 873-2500, Ext. 377

New Jersey Department of Health
and Senior Services
Consumer and Environmental Health Services
PO Box 369
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Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Region 2
290 Broadway Floor 18
New York, New York 10007
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All comments must be provided to the NJDHSS in writing, and postmarked by February 9, 2002.

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